

Claims

1. Apparatus for moving or rocking an infant enclosure of the type having legs by which said enclosure is normally supported on an underlying surface, said apparatus
5 comprising a plurality of support means associated with respective said legs, at least one of said support means including or being associated with motion imparting means for imparting a motion to said enclosure, and means for selectively actuating said motion imparting means.
2. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said motion imparted to the enclosure is
10 an oscillating or reciprocating motion.
- 3 Apparatus as claimed in claim 2 wherein said oscillating or reciprocating motion comprises a substantially vertical motion.
- 15 4. Apparatus as claimed in claim 3 wherein said oscillating or reciprocating motion comprises a constant motion or variable motion.
5. Apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein one or more of said support means comprises active support means and includes or is associated with the motion
20 imparting means.
6. Apparatus as claimed in claim 5 wherein others of said support means comprise passive support means and include means for facilitating the continuation of motion in the enclosure.
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7. Apparatus as claimed in claim 6 wherein said means for facilitating the continuation of motion in the enclosure comprise resilient or elastic means.
8. Apparatus as claimed in claim 7 wherein said resilient means comprise springs.
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9. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein said motion imparting means comprises an actuator.
10. Apparatus as claimed in claim 9 wherein said actuator comprise a vibratory actuator.

11. Apparatus as claimed in claim 9 or claim 10 wherein said actuator includes a member which when actuated imparts a vertical or substantially vertical reciprocating or oscillating motion to the leg of the enclosure associated with the at least one support means.
- 5 12. Apparatus according to any one of claims 9 to 11 wherein said actuator includes an actuator member which may be selectively reciprocated or oscillated.
13. Apparatus as claimed in claim 12 wherein said actuator member is oriented in use substantially vertically such as to induce at least a vertical reciprocation or oscillation of
10 the leg of the enclosure associated with the at least one support means.
14. Apparatus as claimed in claim 12 or claim 13 wherein said actuator comprises a solenoid actuator and wherein said actuator member comprises the solenoid coil of the actuator or armature or an extension of the armature of the actuator.
- 15 15. Apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 11 wherein said actuator includes a rotatable actuator member.
16. Apparatus as claimed in claim 6 wherein said support means comprise a support
20 modules on or in which respective legs of the enclosure are supported.
17. Apparatus as claimed in claim 16 wherein said support modules include a socket or saddle for receiving a leg of the enclosure.
- 25 18. Apparatus as claimed in claim 17 wherein said socket or saddle is supported by resilient means for resilient movement.
19. Apparatus as claimed in claim 18 wherein said resilient means comprises a compression spring.
- 30 20. Apparatus as claimed in claim 19 wherein said support module includes a housing housing said spring.

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21. Apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 17 to 20 wherein at least one of said support modules comprises an active support module and wherein said motion support means comprises an actuator mounted on said socket or saddle of the or each said active support module.

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22. Apparatus as claimed in claim 21 wherein said actuator comprises a solenoid actuator and wherein one of the members of the actuator is connected to the socket.

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23. Apparatus as claimed in claim 22 wherein said member is directly connected to the socket such that movement thereof when the solenoid actuator is actuated causes a corresponding movement of the socket.

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24. Apparatus as claimed in claim 22 wherein said solenoid actuator is supported by the socket.

25. Apparatus as claimed in claim 24 wherein said solenoid members comprise an armature and a coil.

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26. Apparatus as claimed in claim 25 wherein the armature of the solenoid is rigidly connected to the socket and oriented substantially vertically whereby current applied to said coil causes said coil to move substantially vertically along the armature.

27. Apparatus as claimed in claim 26 wherein said coil is weighted.

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28. Apparatus as claimed in claim 26 or claim 27 and including springs for cushioning movement of the coil.

29. Apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 21 to 28 wherein said active module includes control means to control the supply of current to the solenoid.

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30. Apparatus as claimed in claim 29 and including a remote control unit associated with said control means for remote control of the active module.